

Appl. No. 09/577,601
Reply to Office Action of July 13, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

Without prejudice or disclaimer, please amend the claims as shown in the below Listing of Claims. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (Canceled)

Claim 5 (Currently amended): An expression vector for expression of a recombinant protein in a host cell, comprising:

a nucleic acid molecule encoding a non-proteolytic ~~analag~~ mutant of a *Haemophilus* Hin47 protein wherein said Hin47 protein is mutated at amino acid 91, 121 or 197 and said nucleic acid molecule includes a portion encoding the leader sequence for said non-proteolytic mutant,

at least one additional nucleic acid molecule encoding the recombinant protein, and
at least one regulatory element operatively connected to said first nucleic acid molecule and said at least one additional nucleic acid molecule to effect expression of at least said recombinant protein in the host cell.

Claims 6-7 (Canceled)

Claim 8 (Currently amended): The vector of ~~claim 7~~ claim 5 wherein histidine 91 is replaced by alanine.

Claim 9 (Previously presented): The vector of claim 5 wherein said at least one additional nucleic acid molecule encodes a Hia protein of a strain of *Haemophilus influenzae*.

Claim 10 (Original): The vector of claim 9 wherein said at least one additional nucleic acid molecule encodes a Hia protein which is N-terminally truncated.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): The vector of claim 10 wherein said N-terminal truncation is V38.

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Claims 12-43 (Canceled)